



ASK EPA!!

Questions and Answers about
Asbestos and EPA's Investigation

Q: What is Operations and Maintenance?

A: Operation and Maintenance (O&M) is a general term for long-term actions or programs that usually follow or complement the main cleanup at Superfund sites. O&M may include things such as:

- maintenance or repair of containment structures such as landfill covers or walls
- local ordinances or notification procedures for new discoveries of contamination
- cleanup and disposal procedures
- educational programs
- long-term operation of groundwater treatment systems such as those for the Libby Groundwater Site.

Generally, O&M is the responsibility of Potentially Responsible Parties or States, but many parties can and will have a role in Libby.

There are many unique issues associated with the long-term aspects of cleanup in Libby. Some need to be addressed immediately, and others will require longer term planning. Most will benefit from coordination with local officials and input from the citizenry.

To begin planning for O&M, EPA will work with a small group of people who may have the legal authority or financial responsibility for implementing these long-term parts of the cleanup plan. The group will be an advisory and discussion group, not a decision-making body. EPA will ultimately make the cleanup decisions with the benefit of the information that local government and others provide. While this start-up group may be small, over time, many people will be asked to participate as the group discusses issues over which they have influence or in which they have an interest.

For more information call toll free:

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